

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
DISTRICT BOARD OF AMBULANCE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2012
Elsmere Firehouse
15 West Poplar Drive
Delmar, NY 12054

Call to Order at 8:05PM

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Lenhardt (GHL),
Michael Dailey MD (MWD),
Terry Hannigan (TSH)

Approximately 10 other individuals representing Delmar Volunteer Ambulance Service (DVAS), Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Service (BVAS), and Western Turnpike Rescue Squad (WTRS) were also present. Brian Wood from the Albany County Sheriff's Department was also present.

MOTION by MWD seconded by TSH to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner	Dailey	AYE
Commissioner	Hannigan	AYE
Chairman	Lenhardt	AYE

OLD BUSINESS

The matter of the pending, proposed contracts for service was discussed in New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The contracts for service by the agencies are going to be rolled out. Steve Kroll stated that all of the parties at the table who will be involved in delivery of services and billing need to discuss the process that is to be followed by Med Ex for billing. Steve stated that while DVAS has their procedure in place that the new contracts and in particular the ALS billing component needs to be refined and thoroughly laid out so that when ALS billing begins the process goes smoothly.
2. On the matter of fees it was determined that the rates amongst the providers in the Town are not consistent. As the charges must be "usual and customary" in the locale, there is really no justification for disparity or rates amongst the providers in Town. A survey of rates disclosed that WTRS is billing the highest rates in Town and that the carriers are reimbursing at those rates (BLS \$650, ALS1 \$750, ALS2 \$850). TSH noted that if these rates are being billed and accepted that they must meet the definition of usual and customary for Medicare purposes. It was mentioned that the rates should be uniform and that the other providers were encouraged to meet the WTRS billing rate. DVAS (Kroll) stated that DVAS made a conscious effort to price their charges at a lower rate. Given the need for revenue recovery and the town-wide approach to EMS it was suggested that all providers charge the same rate. ACSD indicated that they were exploring an assessment fee charge of \$250 for no transport medical evaluations.

3. The matter of town-wide training and agency coordinated training was discussed. There appears to be a lack of coordination or possibly a lack of commitment to establish a viable joint training program between DVAS and BVAS. Various reasons were given for the program failures. MWD stated that the inability to coordinate training between the agencies and the lack of a town-wide training schedule needed to be addressed by the agencies and rectified going forward. It was mentioned that the problem may be participation, not necessarily organization. Lack of participation or motivation to participate needs to be corrected through better communication by the organization. BVAS stated that were not intending t duplicate training efforts but that lack of familiarity with the scheduled sessions at DVAS or notice contributed to their lack of participation. DVAS indicated that they will continue to post and promote training opportunities for joint training.
4. The contracts for the agencies are expected to be approved by the Town at the meeting on May 23, 2012. Agencies are expected to have the contracts reviewed and be ready to sign upon approval by the Town.
5. The agencies are expected to provide quarterly deliverables as per the earlier request of the Board. MWD is preparing a schedule of deliverables that will be incorporated into the contracts with the agencies and which will require reporting of substantially the same information that had previously been requested. The information is being reviewed by the Board in an effort to identify trends and areas for improvement. The continued production of the information will now be a contractual obligation of the agencies. WTRS will comply as well even though their contract is not obligatory as are the new contracts with DVAS and BVAS.
6. No future meeting was scheduled. It was decided that the next meeting would like be scheduled for the Fall.

MOTION to Adjourn by MWD , seconded by TSH

Commr. Dailey AYE
Commr. Hannigan AYE
Chair. Lenhardt AYE
Motion Carried

ADJOURN 9:50 PM